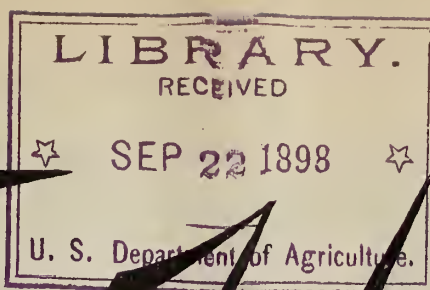


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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

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NO. 3.

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EDITORIAL HINTS.

Paint.
Whitewash.
Plan ahead.
Show energy.
Keep posted.
Be up to date.
Buy new blood.
Try to improve.
Be enterprising.
Avoid excitement.
Sell honest goods.
Hard work counts.
Hold your temper.
Start a club for us.
All breeds are good.
Stick to your breed.
Fall trade is starting.
Order new stock now.
Always have the best.
Build up a reputation.
Treat customers right.
Start your advertising.
Keep the premises neat.
Don't be full of notions.
No deadheads on our list.
Big expectations often fail.
How ragged the fowls look.
Don't blame the hired man.
Stumbling blocks will come.
Don't inbreed—get new males.
Poultry work is constant work.
"Blues" and poultry don't pair.
Peach trees give quickest shade.
Are the pullets' combs reddening?
Inbreeding don't make egg records.
Utility cranks supply the markets.
This is a poultry paper—*ala* Jacobs.
Get the pullets into laying quarters.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Hatching Without Moisture—The Value of Green Cut Bone—Our Brooder Runs—Slack in Laying—Investigating Poor Duck Returns—Bran and Rolled Oats for Young Chicks.

In our experiments in hatching hen eggs in the house cellar (which we noted in a former issue was too damp for duck eggs), we carefully followed the condition of the air cell. As these cells dried down to but their proper place, we added no moisture at all, and are firm in the belief that had we added moisture, even on the last few days, we would have drowned the chicks in the cell. There are times when moisture must be added (according to the condition of the air in the room, and consequently in the egg chamber). When the claim is made that such-and-such an incubator requires no moisture at all, some other instructions follow—generally, that the machine must not be run in a too-dry location, etc. Understanding the condition of the air of the incubator room, and giving the eggs the proper cooling, will give good hatches and strong chicks. We never had stronger and better chicks than we have this year.

It is our honest belief that green cut bone has done more in the feed line to make winter egg production possible, than any other article of food. Furthermore, we know that, in combination with clover hay, it has opened the way for poultry farming on a small territory. With these two articles of diet it is possible to make poultry pay even on a town lot.

Our fowls are all confined to runs, we cannot give them range. We have but two acres of land; it is a long, narrow strip (only 85 feet wide), and on each side our neighbors have gardens. They are good neighbors; for us to let our chickens range would very soon make of them bad neighbors. So as we cannot give our fowls range, we must make up in food and management, as a substitute for the benefits derived in freedom. Consequently, we adopt green cut bone to take the place of the bugs and worms

found in a range. We use clover hay as a substitute for grass, and compel exercise when feeding the grain. We feed this bone as a separate meal (noon) twice a week. We give about an ounce to a hen. They would eat five times the amount if we gave it to them, but we are opposed to overdoing the matter. We are not exaggerating one bit when we say that green bone will double the egg yield. We simply cannot afford to do without it. *But it must be fed fresh*, (it takes but a few minutes time to cut what is needed with our Mann's Improved Cutter, No. 4, and we can always be sure that it is fresh); feed it the day it is cut. Tainted meat is as dangerous as sour food.

We feed the bone to chicks of all ages over one week. They thrive on it, and it is not so dangerous for them as are some kinds of insect life—and more especially some of the meat scraps on the market.

We have attached to each of our Prairie State brooders (outdoor), runs measuring 25 feet in length and four feet wide. These runs are made of one inch wire, two feet high, and covered with two feet mesh. This keeps the chicks from getting out, and at the same time protects them from cats, rats, hawks and other enemies. Besides, it is about as cheap an arrangement as we know of.

There was a slack in production during parts of July and August, owing to the many hens becoming broody, and the natural rest a hen will take after laying steadily. Then of a sudden they started up laying again, and since have added considerable to their records. At this writing moulting has followed this broodiness and rest, and fully half of the hens are now looking ragged, and again has come more or less a slack in laying. But we are glad to have this early shedding of feathers; it will mean eggs for us in fall and winter.

We have been investigating matters to ascertain just where the fault lie with our poor returns from ducks the past season. In the first place, our inability

to properly dry down the eggs in our damp cellar lost for us quite a number of eggs—over 800. Aside from this difficulty to properly dry down the eggs, we believe that our breeding ducks were more or less thrown out of condition by feeding them a certain brand of meat scraps. We had a suspicion that the meat might be the cause, but did not treat the matter seriously until A. F. Cooper, of the Prairie State Incubator Company, paid us a visit last month. We related our experience to Mr. Cooper and he at once hit upon the meat scraps, saying that he had just been making a circuit of the leading duck farms, and found our experience duplicated where too much meat scraps were fed during the winter. As we hinted in our August issue, the fault of our poor success must lie with the treatment we gave our stock during the winter, and we shall change matters the coming season, to see if we cannot have better results next spring.

With our hens we had the best of success—but then we could make our hens *exercise*; our ducks we could not. Besides the hens were laying—the ducks were not. It is always easier to fatten a non-layer than a layer.

There are two articles of diet, especially for young chicks, that we have great faith in, viz.: bran and rolled oats. We place raw bran in little troughs, in the brooders at night. The next morning the chicks at once begin feasting on it. Given in a raw state it regulates the bowels without physicing them. We have not had a loss from bowel troubles from the time we began adopting that article of food. As we tested the raw bran on quite young chicks, and right during hot, summer weather, we feel safe in saying we have found a preventative for that troublesome disease—bowel complaint.

The other article of food is rolled oats. Twice a day, between meals, we give a handful or two of rolled oats, dry, to each brooder pen of chicks. They greedily eat it. There is no better bone and muscle food than oats, and in consequence we have not had a single case of leg weakness.

Now with the two above articles given as mentioned, and powdered charcoal twice a week in the soft feed, and Pioneer Clover Meal daily in the ration, and grit constantly within reach, we believe we are able to prevent much of the loss from indigestion, bowel troubles and leg weakness in chicks.

Wm. H. Welsh, Wayne, Pa., the popular breeder of Silver Wyandottes, presented our Experimental Farm with an Indian Game cock and two pullets, the result of a cross of Indian Game on White Plymouth Rocks. The pullets came out a jet black in color, but Indian Game in shape. We have in mind experiments with the Indian Game for broiler and roaster purposes, and will report on them in due time.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Honest Eggs—Raising Eggs a Paying Business—Secret of Securing Eggs—The Market in South Africa—Jacobs' Joke—The Maine Farmer's Standard for Laying Hens—Grass Eggs.

"Grass eggs!"

"Grass eggs" are poor stuff.

Why low-priced eggs? See Symposium. Cold storage eggs depress the market. Are the April-hatched pullets laying? "Grass eggs" have an unpleasant flavor. Eggs should have an "honest character." By his eggs ye shall know the honest poultryman.

R. W. Davison finds profit in the seashore markets.

Cold storage eggs is an enemy of the fresh egg market.

You can fool a customer once with bad eggs, but only once.

As a rule, winter eggs are better flavored than those of summer.

Nellie Hawks says supply and demand influences summer prices.

G. O. Brown says there are too many grass eggs and weed eggs in market. When a hen is made sick eating too freely of grass, she lays "grass eggs."

The eggs in market the next few months will be small in size, being the first from pullets.

At the close of the civil war, says W. H. Rudd, eggs commanded 50 cents a dozen, wholesale.

Hatching pullets in February, March, April and May, will keep up year-round egg production.

The yolk of a "grass egg" wobbles around in a weak and watery white, and is dull and greenish in color.

Dr. H. B. Greene, England, says a Langshan pullet weighing say 6 1-4 lbs. will lay an egg of 2 1-4 ozs. (average weight).

An English writer says in laying an egg, the pullet parts with about 1-60th part by weight of the total solid nutriment of its own body.

"Grass eggs" is a term applied to eggs which before a candle show a pale, greenish hue, not at all the bright flesh color of fresh healthy eggs.

The *Practical Poultryman* is correct—the male has no special influence on the egg production of the flock with which he is running—Editor McReynolds to the contrary, notwithstanding.

I. K. Felch, in *Southern Poultry Journal*, says: "I would not use a Brahma pullet that scored as low as 90 points, even if she laid 195 eggs a year." That may be fancy but it is not practical. Of what use are "points" to the egg farmer?

Editor Jacobs says: "The great secret in securing eggs is really no secret, for every experienced person knows that everything depends upon the conditions. It is not always the breed or the feed that makes a hen lay. The main point is not to make a laying hen fat." Very true, but since we produce fat by feed, is not feed the most important point to watch?

Now that the United States has become an exporter of eggs, says the *American Agriculturist*, the market in South Africa needs looking after. The sum-

mer price at Cape Town is 84 cents per dozen, and higher rates are quoted in other parts of South Africa. The cause is partly the newness and rapid growth of the settlements, and partly the occurrence of an epidemic, which carried off many of the native poultry.

Poultry Keeper says: "'Councilman' Boyer and 'Judge' Drevenstedt are discussing 'limed eggs'. The 'Judge' opened his batteries on the 'Councilman' and the latter came back with explosive shells. The 'Judge' is now looking over Blackstone and other authorities to confirm his views on the subject. In the meantime the 'Councilman' is receiving presents of St. Bernard dogs and is winking with both eyes at the 'Judge'." And in the same issue, Editor Jacobs tells his readers how to preserve eggs!

It is a certainty that raising eggs is a paying business, concludes the *American Stock-Keeper*. The few fowls that the farmer keeps in his barnyard, and on which he expends but little, pay best of all his live stock; but when attention is specially paid to fowls, when they are housed, and fed and properly attended to, after deducting the cost of keeping, care, interest, etc., from the amount of which their eggs sell, there is, in nine cases out of ten, a larger balance on the credit side of the ledger than is found in connection with any single department of farm industry.

Maine *Farmer*, in reproducing A FEW HENS' standard for broilers, goes a step farther, and presents the type for a "frictionless egg-making machine." It says the whole story is read in the head of the hen, as follows:

For layers we want:

Head—Long and slim; good width in front.

Eyes—Full, large, expressive, indicative of intelligence.

Body—Long, slim, broad across shoulders, triangular, deep in front, the apex at rear. Not compact.

Legs—Good length.

Find this type where you will, it is the egg builder, provided it is backed by the directing energies of an egg-making owner. Form is not everything, but form is necessary for the most to be accomplished in either line. Line up, boys, for the meat maker or egg builder, for it is along these lines the silver cart wheels of 1900 will roll. The utility bird is the one to tie to and its possibilities are beyond present comprehension.

About Broilers and Roasters.

A Batch of Items That it Might be Well to Remember—Some Wise Sayings From a Few of Our Exchanges.

Have them plump!

Fat chickens sell best.

Overfat parents—weak chicks.

Ailing parents—sickly chicks.

Broilers are in for a new boom.

Vigorous parents—vigorous chicks.

Common eggs average poor broilers.

Cold storage crippled the broiler market.

Hardiness is a *desiratum* in table poultry.

The fattening coop *must* be cleaned daily.
 Not all commission merchants are dishonest.
 Our American breeds make the best broilers.
 Sew up the torn skin before marketing the carcass.
 Did you ever get flavor from a cold-storage chicken?
 Epicures prefer yard-raised to farm-raised chickens.
 Too much exercise makes the meat tough and stringy.
 The Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes are best for stewing.
 Common eggs killed Ex-Vice-President Morton's broiler plant.
 There are no poultry trusts, but there are poultry speculators.
 The assorting of carcasses before shipping leads to better prices.
 Many a commission house gets blamed for the shipper's stupidity.
 Cramming the food in fowls will never become popular in America.
 Common eggs helped to kill the big broiler boom in Hammonton.
 The American Brahma makes a better roaster than the English type.
 James Rankin does not favor the late-hatched chicken for market purposes.
 Make it a point to have your poultry of the best quality before shipping to market.
 The only part of the Leghorn that recommends it for table purposes is its full breast.
 Black plumaged fowls make poor market poultry solely on account of black pin feathers.
 Broilers hatched in October, November and December, will come in for good prices in January, February and March.
 One thousand pounds of poultry will cost less than 1,000 pounds of beef, and sells for twice as much in market.
 Rudd & Son, the well-known Boston commission firm, say Southern New Jersey broilers are the best in the country.
 For table poultry we would rather have a thoroughbred than a crossbred, if—the thoroughbred is a properly bred bird for the purpose.
 There is a rumor afloat that a broiler plant is about being started in Southern New Jersey that will eclipse the famous Loughlin farm, of Sidney, O.
 After dressing poultry, throw them into a tub of ice water, to which a handful of salt has been added. Keep them there until the animal heat has entirely left the carcass.
 James Forsyth, in *American Fancier*, says: "There is no variety of domestic fowls that can compare with the Houdan as a table fowl, and Houdan crosses are considered the best that can be made for market poultry."
 The *American Stock-Keeper* says: "We prefer (as who does not?) the flesh of poultry that have always been allowed their liberty and air and sunshine without stint, to that of those confined while fattening in filthy coops." We, too, believe in air and sunshine, and despise filthy coops—but we do not want our fattening chicks to have liberty. Confinement gives more tender meat.

When mating for flesh, the cock should never be even moderately long-legged, unless the hen is unusually short-legged, for the cockerels from such a sire will be gawky and stilty in form when sent to market at an immature age, says a writer in the *American Stock-Keeper*. His breast should be broad, full and round, and his back broad.

When a dealer wishes to add a knock-down argument to the merits of his breed, he will declare that their flesh is of extra quality. The *American Stock-Keeper* says there is no breed of fowls under the sun, the chickens of which, if well fed all their lives, will not be tender, juicy and toothsome. And there will be no breed that will be plump, tender and fit for table unless fed thus.

W. H. Perry, N. Charlestown, N. H., writes A FEW HENS that in the spring of 1897 he had a White Wyandotte cockerel that weighed 3 1-2 lbs. at 11 weeks of age; at 14 weeks he weighed 4 1-2 pounds. This last spring he raised 240 White Wyandotte chicks. One which was hatched March 21st, dressed 4 1-2 lbs. on July 12th. He now has one that was hatched March 21st, which weighs six pounds. He also has had pullets begin to lay when five months old, and has found them to be wonderful winter layers.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Ducklings Cannot Stand Sun—Feeding Ducklings—Hints Gathered from the Experiences of Successful Men in the Business.

Picking live ducks is cruelty.
 Feed four times a day when fattening.
 Begin fattening at seven weeks of age.
 Allow no strange dogs on the premises.
 Good, sharp building sand is best for grit.
 Never use pebbles for grit for young ducks.
 Pekin ducks after a fright are always nervous.
 Handle ducks by the neck, never by legs or wings.
 Fattening ducks must not be allowed bathing water.
 Sun is as dangerous to young ducks as bathing water.
 Never approach a pen of ducks at night with a lantern.
 Two year old drakes to young ducks make a good mating.
 The careless poulterer yards his ducks and hens in one flock.
 Continue rolled oats in the mash for ducklings the first two weeks.
 Newman prefers an 8-pound duck and an 8 1-2 pound drake for breeding.
 Pioneer clover meal mixed with ground grain is excellent for ducklings.
 When ducks begin laying they generally show a black streak on the beak.
 Breeding ducks should be selected at five weeks of age and not fattened.
 Be sure to mix sharp sand or small grit in the soft food at least once a day.
 A good fattening food is two parts corn-meal, one part bran, 15 per cent beef scraps.
 The breast is the most important part of

the Pekin—protruding, large, broad and deep.

A Chenango county (N. Y.) duck raiser says care and hard work are the secrets of the business.

The Standard's demand for a clear orange beak without any black, is a hard thing to secure.

The most notable growth is between the third and fourth week, when the duckling often doubles its weight.

Newman says feeding whole corn does not have a tendency to promote egg production, neither does it produce fertile eggs.

A. A. Skinner feeds his breeding ducks one-third each of bran, vegetables, corn and oats, with a little beef scraps, fish scraps or fresh fish.

Newman claims that the Pekin duck is the largest, matures the quickest, has the finest plumage, lays the most eggs, and dresses the easiest for market.

The *Rural New-Yorker* interviewed one of the largest dealers of ducks in New York city, and he has given this verdict of the duck market: "The production has exceeded the demand. I never before knew Long Island ducks to bring such low prices as this year. It is simply that the growers produced more than the market could take care of."

The Irish (Dublin) *Farmer's World* says that, during the time around noon, when the sun bears its greatest power, young ducklings should be shut up. If running loose they are liable to die of apoplexy, owing to the sun's rays striking the head, the covering protecting the brain being very thin in a young duckling. They fall on their backs, and though not dying immediately, a few hours generally finish them off. Nothing can save them in such a case.

According to *Rural New-Yorker*, for the first four days A. A. Skinner, Greene, N. Y., feeds his ducklings four parts of bread to one egg, and one-third rolled oats. At the end of four days, about five per cent sand is added to the food; and each day following, until the end of the first week, the food is gradually changed by substituting bran and meal for egg and bread. The sand is given that there may be grit in the gizzard before commencing to feed bran, which has a coarse fiber, requiring grit to cut it. After a week he gives two parts of wheat bran, one of corn meal, 10 per cent beef scrap and, of course, the five per cent sand should be continued until the ducks are fattened. Salt is used for flavoring at all times. About the time the sand is first given, he begins feeding green food. It is important that, at least, one-third of their food should be green stuff. It must be as tender and succulent as possible on the start, like clover, green rye or tender grass, cut fine. In winter, cabbage, turnips, beets, potatoes or any vegetables, chopped into small pieces with a root cutter, or even nice clover hay, cut and cooked will do. This green stuff is mixed with the other food in a large box, and moistened with water, but not made sloppy.

Our Brevity Symposium.

More About Green Duck Eggs—Are Summer Broilers Profitable?—Was the Duck Market Glutted?—Why Low Prices of Eggs in Times of High Prices of Feed?—Humane Ways for Breaking up Broody Hens.

GREEN DUCK EGGS.

What is the cause of green duck eggs? Is it a sign of impurity?

Said to be. Don't know the cause. Never set them.—*A. Neilson, Elk Ridge, Md.*

Green eggs are evidently a sign of impurity, and no doubt comes from crossing years back. I have seen birds lay green eggs and from all appearance were standard-bred.—*Walter P. Laird, Salem, Va.*

* * *

SUMMER BROILERS.

In your experience, have you found summer broilers profitable?

No.—*A. Neilson, Elk Ridge, Md.*

Yes.—*Wm. H. Jones, Lincoln University, Pa.*

No; unless you have a good shady range, and then there is not much profit in them, except from the fact that eggs are cheap and it requires little fuel to hatch and brood them.—*J. E. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J.*

As we depend on a New York market for sale of our broilers, they have to be shipped before the migratory people of that city depart for the summer resorts; consequently, we do not find summer broilers profitable.—*Wm. C. Casey, Aratoma Farm, Katonah, N. Y.* We have never raised summer broilers to any extent, as our ducks take most of our time at that season. But we think they should prove profitable, as eggs at that season hatch very well, and there should not be so much trouble from exposure. The chicks would not require being housed in a brooder house. Outdoor brooders in an apple orchard would be our plan. Taking all things into consideration, we think summer broilers profitable.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.*

I have found summer broilers profitable only when there is a demand for them, or where there is an arrangement made for a certain price the year round. Summer broilers can be raised much cheaper than winter broilers, especially when reared in outdoor brooders with unlimited range. Any one who can raise say 10,000 broilers in the summer, can easily get a market for them at good figures, for there are some summer resorts who use from one to four barrels at one shipment, about twice a week. When handled in this way they surely pay.—*G. A. McFetridge, Bound Brook, N. J.*

I have sold only small lots, and find them profitable in proportion to cost, as they consume many substances which could not otherwise be utilized, and which is regarded ordinarily as waste. The item of labor is not considered, however, though the cost of labor is always a factor, nevertheless. But little labor is required if the chicks have a range (except in the early stages of growth). In winter

the labor can be better applied, as other work is not so pressing and urgent. Lice is the great drawback, but must not be considered in a well managed establishment. In early summer eggs for hatching are cheaper and also more fertile, which reduces the cost in that direction.—*P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, N. J.*

In regard to summer broilers, will say that I set all my eggs in the month of March, so as to get all chicks out early in April, and raise them all at once. We killed Silver Wyandotte cockerels at 11 weeks of age which pulled the scales at two pounds each. I tried the cross of Indian Game cock on White and Barred Plymouth Rocks; the progeny turned out half coal black and half barred. But I do not like them for broilers, and will never again use a Game. I am going to stick to Silver Wyandottes. In my estimation they are the best general purpose fowl. I have tried nearly all and find the Wyandotte matures quicker and makes finer looking broilers than any other breed. I had them weigh two pounds at 10 weeks. Take them at that age, they have the sweetest meat you ever tasted.—*Wm. H. Welsh, Wayne, Pa.*

* * *

LOW PRICE OF DUCKS.

Do you think the low price in market for early ducks indicates a glut?

Yes.—*Wm. H. Jones, Lincoln University, Pa.*

I do; the duck business is overdone, so far as I can tell. Am going to give up duck raising. They cost more than you can get for them. This is so in this part of the world—Maryland. Can't compete with the farm duck, which just grows with very little expense, and no money is lost if it dies.—*A. Neilson, Elk Ridge, Md.*

It is usually taken for granted that the market is glutted, or that the article is not wanted, when it sells at or below the cost of production. I have not been able to learn that there are more ducks on the market this year than last, but the price certainly indicates that there are more than are needed.—*A. J. Hallock, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.*

No; it is in consequence of the immense quantity of cold storage ducks on hand. Our first box of spring ducks shipped March 1st, brought in 37c.; the next, 30c.; after which the price soon went down to 25c. As long as cold storage ducks were selling at 11c. and 12c., it naturally kept the price of spring ducks down.—*James Rankin, South Easton, Mass.*

We do not think that there is any danger of a glut in the duck market, but that the future for duck farming is as bright as it was ten years ago. The rapid improvement in the way of extra laying and quick maturing strains of ducks—Pekins, of course—makes it possible to raise ducks for market at a good profit yet.—*J. MacFlickinger, Fannettsburg, Pa.*

The low price of early ducks is due to speculators buying them up in summer when they reach the lowest price, and placing in freezers until the next spring—and then putting them on the market at the time when ducks com-

mence to come in. Twenty-five cents a pound was the highest price I received for early ducks this spring. With the frozen ducks out, 40c. would have been the price.—*W. H. Fordham, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.*

In one sense of the word, "Yes"; in another, "no." The people have not yet been educated to eat spring ducks. In our markets here, four years ago we had hard work to sell 1500 ducklings which we raised. This year we expect to market 7,000 or 8,000, and so far have plenty of orders. In time we look for spring ducks to be as common as beef. The majority of people do not know what a good spring duck is.—*W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.*

It indicates a glut at this particular time. It is not a permanent condition. The very poor business of the summer hotels and resorts, (from whatever cause) has shut off the usual outlet for the duck crop, and as a consequence, while the crop is not an unusually large one, all sections considered, there is a general underconsumption which is naturally shown in a stagnant market and low prices. We anticipate next year's trade will be proportionately larger.—*Geo. H. Pollard, So. Attleboro, Mass.*

It seems there are too many raised for the demand. There seem to be several reasons for supposing a glut: First, there are thousands of people who never heard of killing ducks until fall or cool weather. Consequently they never ask the butcher for them only at Thanksgiving or Christmas. If they did try to buy them, the butcher would either not want to go to the trouble of getting them, or would charge 20 cents a pound for what cost 8c. to 10c.; and the buyer thinking them too dear, would not ask for them again. On almost everything, the farmer raises, the dealer makes as much or more profit than the farmer receives for his goods. If we send a crate of berries to the city, to the commission merchant, we are lucky if we get 3c. to 5c. per quart for them, while the consumer seldom ever gets a quart of berries for less than 10c. and up; and everything else about in the same proportion. If there was some way to bring the producer and consumer a little closer together, so the consumer would not have to pay such exorbitant prices, there would soon be a demand for double or ten times the number there are used now, with eventually a fair profit for the producer.—*D. A. Mount, Jamesburg, N. J.*

* * *

CHEAP EGGS AND DEAR FEED.

What reason do you assign for the low prices of eggs in these times of high prices of feed?

But with us eggs are not low. They are worth 22 1-2 cents per dozen here in market. Neither is feed, except wheat, very high. The practice of keeping western eggs in cold storage, and shipping them east, tends to depress the price of eggs in our eastern markets.—*H. S. Babcock, Providence, R. I.*

Low prices are governed largely by favorable seasons. In this section we had no snow during the winter of 1897-98, hence the spring was mild. The hens had everything in their favor compared with the season before. Sometimes high prices induce poultrymen to economize with food, and they do not feed so heavily, compelling their birds to forage more, which improves the conditions for laying, the hens not being as fat as when food is more plentiful.—*P. H. Jacobs*, Hammonton, N. J.

It is more in the lack of demand, brought about by want of money in the hands of the masses. Sixty per cent of the population are economizing. Cheap as eggs have been for the past two months, they have not had the money to buy, and with the greater output they have accumulated, and being perishable property, had to be sold. But that time has passed. They are worth 20 cents today in Natick and on the rise.—*I. K. Felch*, Natick, Mass. One reason we think is this: Our warm March caused the hens to begin laying early, and they have kept at it so persistently that the supply was equal to the demand. But, they having begun to moult much earlier than usual, I would not be at all surprised to hear of a scarcity of eggs very soon, and prices raise accordingly. Another reason is that meats of all kinds have been cheaper than for several years past, and country people have consumed more meat, and consequently less eggs were used on their table, and more sold.—*F. B. Zimmer*, Gloversville, N. Y.

The present low price of eggs can be attributed to the heavy receipts, and the decreased demand. Such has been the case every summer, and prices have not been lower, on an average, than in seasons past. The receipts of eggs in our market, July 23d, was 2700 crates, or 81,000 dozen. It is plain to perceive that the supply of eggs is increasing wonderfully each succeeding season, and it is evident that our poultry raisers are getting better results from their hens.—*Philip Quigley*, Philadelphia, Pa.

Supply and demand regulates the price of eggs, the same as anything else, regardless of the price of feed, or cost of production. Here along the seashore, eggs bring a fair price, selling for 18 to 20c. per dozen, wholesale, while back in the country they are selling for 15 to 16c. per dozen. Those who live near a good home market can regulate the price of eggs and chickens to suit themselves, as I have been preaching for some time. There is no reason why the poultryman should not sell his goods direct to the consumer, and thus save at least two commissions. At present (July 29th) I am getting 24c. per dozen for eggs, and 25c. per pound for spring chickens. My own eggs, guaranteed to be not over 48 hours old, command a better price.—*R. W. Davison*, Glendola, N. J.

The evils of cold storage, and the fact that many farmers at this season are not particular enough in sending good sound eggs. Another reason is that a

great portion of the egg supply that reaches market is furnished by those who mainly let the hens shift for themselves, and eggs depend in *quality* on feed. The summer egg supply is not, therefore, as palatable as when the hens have to be fed properly. There are too many grass and weed eggs in market. If purchasers could be guaranteed eggs of good quality, summer prices would average much higher. The man who buys a dozen eggs in market, is apt to have some just ripe enough to take the place of bouquets at theatrical entertainments, some that are good object lessons for the various stages of incubation, and some that may be eaten without producing cramps.—*G. O. Brown*, Baltimore, Md.

The reason to me seems twofold, at least. Perhaps the causes may be many-fold more. Present price (July 26) for eggs in market is 9 cents per dozen. During the greater part of the summer, eggs have sold at from 6 to 8 cents per dozen. Corn is worth 25 cents, wheat 65 cents, at present. Everybody (almost) keeps "a few hens", or a great many hens. Eggs are carried to market in great quantities from farms everywhere. "Home consumption" does not consume them, for even our villagers keep many fowls for home supply of eggs and "fries." They are produced cheaply upon the farm from the fact that the majority of farm fowls are picking up their living, and there is an abundance of seeds, scattered grains of corn, oats and wheat for the fowls to turn to, which in this way is saved, as the food otherwise would not be. The farmer counts the eggs as "just so much clear gain." The price is low, but with many dozens weekly to dispose of, the amount thus gained is an item of no insignificant importance. Another reason for the prevailing low price of eggs in market is the fact that merchants hold the prices down, knowing that they can. It has become "habit" to offer 6 to 9 cents per dozen for summer eggs. They fear that a greater sum would paralyze the farmer with surprise and hopelessness! It is doubted if he could stand prosperity! Summed up: Supply and demand influences summer prices largely, and summer prices of grain are not taken into consideration. Second, Habit, from long years of dealing with farmers upon the egg question, upon the plan of "take it or let it alone; accept the pittance or lose the eggs." It is a matter of "might makes right." But, never be discouraged. Raise a few more hens every year. The poultry business pays after all.—*Nellie Hawks*, Friend, Neb.

The price of most commodities usually depends in a great measure upon the cost of production, but eggs seem to be an exception to this general rule, and the price does not depend in the slightest degree upon the cost of grain; never did, and probably never will. After the close of our "civil (or uncivil) war", we experienced a gradual reaction from the high war-prices of grain, until in '72, or '71, or thereabouts, it touched the lowest figure it

had then known for many years, but at the same time *eggs* commanded the highest prices the oldest poultryman could remember. In some of our eastern cities the best grocers and marketmen at one time paid as high as 50c. per dozen, wholesale, for the product of well-known henneries, to supply their family trade. The prices of both grain and eggs were very unusual, but so far from being *connected* they seemed diametrically opposed to each other. Here at the east a tenderfoot enters into the poultry business, erects buildings at more or less expense, buys all his grain, and of course figures carefully on the cost of his product, and perhaps comes out behind. Whereas, in the broad and boundless west, where a large proportion of our eggs, and where *all* our cheapest ones come from, and where fowls seem to get their living by their wits, and from scattered grain, which has no connection with price or value, and without any recognized expense to their owners, eggs seem to be a "by-product", so to speak, or almost an inevitable *waste-product*. Whatever price they may bring, whether 6 or 16 cents, is just so much clear gain. It is precisely as bran or shorts is one unavoidable product of wheat, and while wheat is not raised for the bran, yet we cannot have flour without it. Yet the price of bran keeps pretty well with that of flour, which is natural and quite correct; whereas, *eggs* do not appear to be used in so fair a manner, and the price is regulated by the demand and supply, without any reference to the market value of grain.—*W. H. Rudd*, South Natick, Mass.

* * *

BREAKING UP BROODY HENS.

What plan do you find the most humane in breaking up broody hens?

The hens when broody are put in chicken coops and runs on grass, and in the shade. They soon break up.—*E. T. Perkins*, Saco, Me.

Always considered the best way was to shut them up with a male bird, usually 3 or 4 days, and they are soon ready to go laying again.—*D. A. Mount*, Jamesburg, N. J.

I have a small coop in each yard; and put the broody hens in it, where they are kept five days. I give them feed and water. If treated in this manner they will commence to lay again in a very short time.—*R. G. Buffinton*, Fall River, Mass.

The best plan I have found is to put them in a pen with no nests, and in which is a good vigorous cockerel. Feed lightly for a few days. Very few will resume their sitting business after a few days of such confinement.—*J. E. Stevenson*, Columbus, N. J.

On a small scale, use a coop that is slatted on the bottom. Set up off the ground, where the wind will blow through it. It is especially effective early in the season, as it takes but a very little while to cool the hens off. It works successfully.—*J. F. Crangle*, Fishers Island, N. Y.

Confine them at once in a well-lighted and well-ventilated pen, with an

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,

PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.
About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Now that the fall trade has opened, the editor of A FEW HENS wishes to have a few words with poultry advertisers in general. The "woods are full" of poultry publications, and all are bidding for advertising. They all deserve patronage—more or less, according to the merits of the publication, and the territory they cover.

Now if the advertisers will kindly "lend us their ears", we will briefly state what advantage we present in A FEW HENS.

A FEW HENS is a publication conducted upon different lines than any other poultry journal. More actual labor is spent upon editing it than upon any other paper of its dimensions—and even many double its size. The brevity plan gives its readers the cream of what appears in the different papers, as well as what has occurred, and is daily occurring, in the every-day poultry work of the editor and his readers. In short, A FEW HENS endeavors to get as much real practical information in each issue as its boundary lines will permit. It is the poultry encyclopedia for beginners.

Who brings the trade to advertisers, if it is not the beginner? He that is about embarking in business is the one who gives the substantial orders. We are reaching that class—two-thirds of our subscribers are "poultrymen on a small scale." They are farmers as well as villagers, and they are found in every State in the Union.

Our subscription list is rapidly nearing the 10,000 mark, and we are monthly sampling quite extensively. During the past year we circulated from 20,000 to 30,000 copies each month, and we intend doing the same during the next six months.

The advantages in advertising in A FEW HENS are:—

1. Its small-sized pages—an advertisement being always prominent.

2. The arrangement of reading matter close by the advertising—preventing the smallest advertisement from being hid.

3. The brevity plan in the reading matter—making the paper a publication for reference—in consequence of which each issue is carefully preserved, and the advertising is consequently continually in circulation.

4. Our circulation covering the whole of the United States.

5. Our readers—farmers and villagers—people engaged in poultry for profit, and who represent the grand army of buyers.

6. Our low rates. In other words we charge 10 cents a line each insertion, on six months or yearly orders.

Are not our advantages of sufficient merit to ask a trial? We believe that after given a fair test, you will include A FEW HENS in your regular contracts. This issue will be sent to many advertisers who probably never before saw a copy of the paper. Our editor has made out a list of friends in the business, and they will know by this that he holds out to each of them a personal invitation. Let us do some business for you. We guarantee honest service. We are sure to please.

Let us refer you those who have tried us:

The Prairie State Incubator Company, Homer City, Pa., write that their advertisement is paying them immense.

I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., are so well pleased with the results of advertising in A FEW HENS that they do not want to miss a single issue.

The Mann Bone Cutter Co., Milford, Mass., were so well pleased with last year's advertising with us, that they have renewed their contract.

L. S. Bache, proprietor of Brookdale farm, Bound Brook, N. J., received his first order three days after the paper was published.

W. R. Curtiss & Co., proprietors of the Niagara Farm, Ransomville, N. Y., write: "We find A FEW HENS a first class advertising medium. Our first order paid our advertising bill for six months, and we have received an average of three inquiries a day since the advertisement first appeared. A FEW HENS pays as well as any of our ten advertising mediums."

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., writes: "I get more returns from A FEW HENS than from anything I have used since the old *Fanciers' Journal* days."

A. J. Silberstein, the inventor of the Eureka Nest Box, Framingham, Mass., writes: "My replies from A FEW HENS are equal in number to those from any other source."

J. A. Bennett & Co., manufacturers of the Champion brooder, Gouverneur, N. Y., write: "We are getting excellent results from our advertisement in A FEW HENS."

The Bennett & Millett Co., manufacturers of Pioneer Clover Meal, Gouverneur, N. Y., write: "Your little paper is a great business getter."

We could add greatly to this list of testimonials, but we have given enough to show that money spent with us will be well spent. Give us a trial.

Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J., breeder of business White Wyandottes, in a letter to the editor of A FEW HENS, has the right idea about advertising.

He writes:

"I really do not need to have my advertisement appear just now, but I find that just advertising when you need the orders, does not bring them so well. It is the constant appearance which brings results. Those who see your advertisement today will be wanting to buy next spring, and will try the party whose advertisement they have noticed so often."

A good plan is a small advertisement during the dull season, and a big display when there is time to do business. Never remove your sign. Buyers will pass by.

A FEW HENS is becoming more popular every day, and every day we are adding to our already large subscription list. In the preparation of each issue, we editorially cover a larger field than some journals do in a whole year. And the price! Well, it is next to nothing. Certainly we are giving much for little.

But what pleases us the most is the opinion of others. Each issue contains the kind words of new and old subscribers, and here is another fresh invoice:

C. R. Traver, New York, writes: "A FEW HENS is like Hamburg steak—all ready to be assimilated."

Mrs. E. M. Sikes, California, while enclosing a subscription for three years, writes: "Have never seen anything in print that so entirely covers the subject as this little sheet. It is small in size, but large in quality."

W. M. Lloyd, New York, writes: "For genuine hen essence, I always get a big dose in A FEW HENS."

H. A. Kuhns, Atlanta, Ga., writes: "A FEW HENS is different from all other poultry papers, a veritable *multum in parvo*."

Eugene Francis Carpenter, Massachusetts, writes: "I have read several numbers of A FEW HENS and like it ever so much. It is the essence of poultry matters, and that is just what a busy man wants."

C. M. Thomson, California, writes: "Well, you have it—A FEW HENS—and it's a 'Jim Dandy.' 'There are others'—but, like Sunday papers—long drawn out. That's right: if you fail, say so—don't give us the 'pa' or 'hired man' racket. Would say, luck to you; but you cannot fail with such a little corker."

Chas. S. Billmyer, West Virginia, writes: "I congratulate you on the improvement you have made in A FEW HENS. Mr. Boyer should be well encouraged in his work, for he is giving us the best paper for the money published. Indeed, I like it much better than any of the 50-cent papers that I get. Long may she enlighten us new beginners. I am keeping a file of it, and often read over the back numbers, much to my benefit."

Dr. J. H. Casey, Kansas City, Mo., writes: "I have a friend who is disgusted with city life, and the world at large, in general. He and his wife are anxious to get in the country—the place called 'God's home.' Having dabbled some in chicks, they feel that perhaps they could earn a little money from them if they had a small farm. To aid them I have commended to their notice

the best, most practical, most common-sense, honest, honorable poultry paper that is published, called A FEW HENS. Enclosed find subscription. I want them to have some practical ideas to read, and not a long, drawn-out theoretical lot of nonsense about 'points,' 'blue or black bars,' and such, which amounts to nothing. Best wishes for your success."

W. H. Crosier, New York, writes: "We vote A FEW HENS the best poultry paper printed, regardless of price. Long may it wave."

The *American Poultry Journal* says: "A FEW HENS enters its second volume increased in size to twelve pages. It is conducted on the brevity plan—giving the cream of poultry information, with M. K. Boyer working the churn handle."

The *Poultry Monthly* says: "A FEW HENS, M. K. Boyer's big little paper, started off on its second year with an addition of four extra pages. It gives big value for 'a quarter' a year."

W. S. Gregory, Iowa, writes: "I am very much pleased with A FEW HENS. It contains more real knowledge, and is more practical for its size, than any other paper which I take, and I take a dozen or so."

Emory E. Banks, in *Practical Poultryman*, says: "A FEW HENS enters its second volume with four more pages added to it of Uncle Mike's boiled down nuggets of information—too much for a quarter."

Henry J. Walters, Pennsylvania, writes: "I am sure I never saw a paper so full of go-right-to-the-point information in my life."

Wm. F. Stroud, New Jersey, writes: "I think the 'Brevity Symposium' very interesting, and will no doubt prove very instructive. I read your paper over two or three times, besides often referring to back numbers for helps and ideas."

W. H. Perry, New Hampshire, writes: "I am more than pleased with A FEW HENS. You don't have to read two or three columns to find out anything."

Dr. J. H. Casey, in last issue of *Poultry Culture*, thus comments upon the discussion between the *American Fancier* and A FEW HENS re storage eggs:

"If there is one thing we respect it is honor and honesty in business dealings. It is often said in these days that in business honesty does not pay, but the success of A FEW HENS proves the falsity of this assertion. We read a good many papers and enjoy and profit by them, but when we have carefully read the ideas of Honest Mike Boyer, we feel as we do after a good dinner, better. No wonder A FEW HENS has doubled its circulation; even dishonest people like it—and if the poultry men and poultry journals were more imbued with the strictly honorable principals and dealings of its veteran editor, the world would be better for it, and the poultry industry elevated. We admire Dewey and Hobson for their heroism, but we are apt to sneer at the heroic acts of those who would rather be honest and poor, than rich and dishonest. That's right, Brother Boyer, stick to it, and don't encourage people to call black, white. Doing right hurts no man, but

this little scheming 'shrewd' way of making money by trickery in the end 'peters out.' Such doings as are practiced by many not only injure the poultry business but begets skepticism regarding any man's honor. Let us stand or fall on our merits, and not try to live under false colors. Let us have one industry which we can point to with pride as being honorable and conducted on honorable principles by honest men!"

A. F. Cooper,—the always-happy-and-chuck-full-of-business Cooper—paid Hammonton a visit last month, just fresh from a business and pleasure trip through New York, Long Island, and New England. He talked Prairie State incubators and brooders everywhere, took orders and gave estimates for large plants. Then he went to Portsmouth, R. I., and beat O. K. Billy Hughes catching fish. The circuit was completed by a run down to Hammonton to see after his business interests here, and at the same time help reduce the supplies the editor had laid by for a rainy day. Hammonton is Cooper's home, by adoption. Next to Homer City it is the only place in which he would live. He must stop here if within a radius of 100 miles. No wonder; no poultryman ever received a more cordial welcome to our shores than he, and the only regret we have is that he cannot make his stay longer.

It is a fact, that just as Hammonton gave birth to the broiler industry, so it likewise brought the Prairie State incubator into prominence. Without the help of Hammonton it is doubtful if the raising of broilers would today be the substantial industry it is. Hammonton's successes and failures were object lessons from which the poultrymen all over the country profited. About ten years ago Mr. Cooper brought several incubators to this place, and made an experimental hatch—97 per cent of the fertile eggs brought out good chicks. The fact soon spread like wild-fire all over the country—the Hammonton broiler raisers discarded the machines they were using and put in Prairie States—and from that day on the Prairie State grew into popular favor. It made Cooper and Nix rich men.

With these recollections—and coupled with the fact that it is always the same Cooper—there is a standing cordial welcome for him, and a strong testimonial ever ready for his reliable hatcher.

C. P. Reynolds, in his interesting "Michigan Notes" in the *American Fancier*, says:

"In a recent issue of A FEW HENS, the worthy production of M. K. Boyer, I note the following line—'Fancier's have no use for A FEW HENS.'

"I suppose by the above that the esteemable editor means not only his publication, but others representing the same trend of poultry culture as well. How true this is I am not wholly prepared to say, but the impression is very prominent in some circles, that such a state of affairs exists, and it is to be regretted that it does. When a person gets so abnormally developed that his sole aim is feather, he is getting very close to where he is of little use to him-

self, or the advancement of the purebred fowl in general.

"The person who is breeding poultry and giving all features due attention, and is conscientiously endeavoring to produce a better fowl, without deteriorating one feature, is above criticism. It is only the narrowed fancier who ignores everything but just one thing, that is drawing the censure of certain periodicals like A FEW HENS. The purebred fowl is all right; it is only those who are misconstruing its purpose."

Like Mr. Reynolds, we believe in the purebred fowl. But a fowl bred strictly to feather, without any attention being paid to egg production, is about on par with a beautiful horse that cannot trot, or a handsome cow that gives practically no milk. Handsome is as handsome does."

With the close of the first volume of *Poultry Culture*, Dr. J. H. Casey relinquishes editorial control. The doctor was compelled to take this step owing to other business crowding him. We always admired his plain, matter-of-fact style of writing, and it was due to his truly practical manner of handling subjects that *Poultry Culture* became so popular in the poultry world. The paper by this move sustains a serious loss—but, it is hoped, that equally as good a writer and poultry man will be secured to take the doctor's place.

The proprietor of Hartnest Farm, Framingham, Mass., thinks that when we in our *Experimental Farm Notes* (August A FEW HENS) report that the common hens beat the Brahmas, we do the latter an injustice. Before we go into details, we want to say that those "common hens" were Leghorn-Plymouth Rock crossbreds, principally, while our Brahmas were not mated for heavy egg supply, but rather for table purposes, as we will explain. To show that there are better laying Light Brahmas than what we have on our *Experimental Farm*, Mr. Silberstein submits the following record of 33 birds in his own yards:

	Hartnest.	A F. H. Farm.
January,	368	89
February,	580	161
March	632	303
April	485	242
May	442	144
June	326	189

Upon the face of it, Hartnest Brahmas are way ahead of ours, and we are glad that Mr. Silberstein has called our attention to this matter so we can explain for the benefit of all who might be interested.

We began in January with 10 hens and 25 pullets. The latter were late hatched so that we practically did not get any returns from them before February. But, aside from that, if Mr. Silberstein will refer to our annual report of last year he will find that for the coming season our matings were made not so much for heavy egg yields as for table purposes. We picked out our best bodied low-down fowls, and mated up for roasting fowls. We are keeping three varieties of hens—Leghorns, principally for summer eggs; Wyandottes

for *broilers*; Brahmas for *roasters*, and all the *winter eggs* we can get out of the three varieties in addition.

So before we adopt such methods as Mr. Silberstein uses for great egg records, we want to build up to what we hope will be an *ideal roasting fowl*. We cannot secure such heavy layers as Mr. Silberstein has, and such ideal roasters as we are working for, at the same time.

Instead of hurting the reputation of the Light Brahmas, we are helping them, only in a different direction from that which Mr. Silberstein employs. We care more for *roasting* Brahmas; Mr. Silberstein cares more for *heavy-laying* Brahmas. As both objects are worthy ones, both should be encouraged.

Now after we have attained what will satisfy us as a correct type for a roaster, then we shall take a step towards increased egg production. And we will say right here, that in order to accomplish that we will use Mr. Silberstein's Eureka Nest Box. The Brahma could have no better friend than the editor of A FEW HENS. We believe it is the king of the roasting fowl—and Mr. Silberstein has demonstrated that it likewise can be made the king of heavy winter layers.

In the May issue of A FEW HENS, we gave the letters of two New York ladies, asking if women could be admitted to the poultry classes of the Rhode Island Experimental College, or if the course could not be bulletined for general circulation. We intended to give Prof. Brigham's reply in the June issue, but as it was then impossible to set the date for new classes, we could not give a reply sooner. Arrangements have now been made for a special winter course (four weeks), to begin January 9th, 1899. Those interested should write to Prof. Arthur A. Brigham, Kingston, R. I., for latest circulars.

Prof. Brigham has written us regarding the inquiries of the two ladies above, as follows:

"My Dear Sir:—Your favor of Aug. 15, with enclosures, is at hand. I enclose a circular, the first copy that I am sending out, just hot from our printing press, relative to our next special course of instruction in poultry culture. I think all of the questions asked by Miss Wilmarth are answered therein; not only are the women allowed to take the course, but they are welcome to do so. Two ladies took the course last winter, one of them a New Jersey woman, Mrs. F. H. Valentine, Cranford, N. J.

"Relative to the matter mentioned by Mrs. Geo. F. Updyke, I would say that it is not very easy to do what she proposes; and if it were done I doubt its utility. Certainly you could not teach the chemistry of foods by bulletins, and further, to provide 'a sort of condensed course,' that is, if the sort was to be of the right sort, would be at present out of the question. The four weeks' special course which we provide is most thoroughly condensed and its usefulness is in a large degree due to the fact that the pupils go into the laboratory and study the chemistry of the foods; and cut up the fowls themselves and study all their anatomy; and go into the incubator house and run incubators; into the brooder house and run brooders; and

take practical lessons in mixing of feeds and feeding fowls; and go into the mechanical drawing room and there work out the plans for poultry buildings; and then go into the carpenter shop and with the hammer and saw actually make poultry buildings; all these things being under the direction and training of expert teachers. In the case of a course conducted in a paper, or by mail, this actual contact with the teachers themselves would be missing. I have seen the thing tried in other lines of study and usually it fails.

"I am very glad to say that our course last winter was successful beyond my highest anticipations, and I expect that we shall have still better success in this second course. I am ready at any time to answer any questions which your readers may be pleased to ask, and to render any assistance within my power to those desiring to learn more of one of the most important branches of agriculture."

I am sincerely yours,

A. A. BRIGHAM.

The poultry plants of the Experimental Station and College Farm having been placed under Prof. Brigham's control, the work of experimentation and instruction will be carried on conjointly. He asks the hearty co-operation of all poultrymen.

BREVITY SYMPOSIUM—Continued.

active, vigorous cockerel. Give all the food they will eat up clean, with plenty of pure water, grit and shells. It is unnecessary to state that all nest boxes should be previously removed. —F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H.

I keep a pen of ten White Leghorn cockerels for this purpose, and throw the persistent broodies into this pen. Twenty-four hours generally does the business. I also have coops of lath, on legs, with slats in bottom of coop, about two inches apart, setting about 18 inches above the ground. These coops have proved effectual, but not so speedy as the former method.—Richard H. Young, Westboro, Mass.

Take a box 3x4 feet, knock off the top and bottom, and tack on chicken netting, covering the entire open space. Then tack on laths, one in about eight inches. Then slat the top with laths so as to keep the hen in. Set the box up from the ground some 6 or 8 inches, giving the air a chance to circulate up through the netting, which will soon cool the hen of her fever. Try it.—R. S. Cook, West Townsend, Mass.

Shut them up in a small coop with lath bottom, and give no food or water for from 36 to 48 hours. Then let them out and it will generally fix them. But if it does not, let them eat and

WANTED to buy Wyand. or P. Rock Pullets, or will exchange a 325-egg Monarch incubator in perfect repair. H. P. J. Earnshaw, Box 270, Kingston, Mass.

WHITE LEGHORNS for sale cheap. 15 yearling hens; 15 early-hatched pullets; 1 cock and one cockerel. The lot for \$20.00. H. Y. MILLER, Sugar Grove, Pa.

LARGE, well marked Light Brahma chicks from choice stock, 50 ets. each in lots of four. S. FRED HAXTON, Oakfield, N. Y.

CUT RATES

For 30 days. Breeders young or old. Light Brahmas, S. C. W. Leghorns, Mammoth Pekin Ducks, Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. Wh. Indian Games, Wh. Holland Turkeys, Wh. Embden Geese, \$2.00 each. Prairie State Sectional brooder, complete, \$20.00. Order now and get the benefit of this offer. Niagara Farm, Curtiss & Co., Prop'rs., Circular. Ransomville, N. Y.



BIG MONEY IN EGGS

if you can only get enough of them at the lowest cost. **GREEN CUT BONE** solves the problem. It doubles the egg product. It makes hens lay in the dead of winter when eggs are worth money. It keeps the hen laying. It makes chicks grow fast and mature early, and makes early layers of the pullets.

MANN'S NEW BONE CUTTERS prepare bone in the best way. Cut fast, run easy, last long. Mann's Clover Cutters, Granite Crystal Grit and Swinging Feed Trays are all necessary to highest success. Cash or installments. Illustrated catalogue sent free. **F. W. MANN CO., Box 67, MILFORD, MASS.**

JOSEPH BRECK & SONS, are our Boston Jobbers.



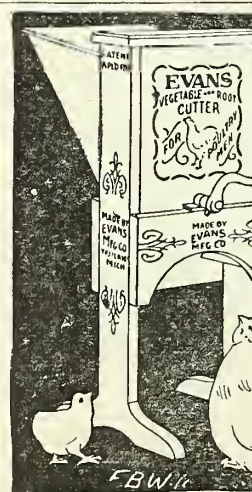
HEAVY LAYING BRAHMAS,

(HARTNEST STRAIN.)

Don't expect other than temporary results, even from the best balanced ration. Fowls forced to lay are short lived. **Breed for eggs and feed for health**, is only sure road to permanent success. This is the foundation on which is built. They have been bred for generations from prolific laying hens, with known individual high egg records. Mated to sons of heavy layers. Certificate of pedigree furnished each purchaser, showing number of eggs laid by dam, weight of dam, weight of dam's egg, score and other information of value. Breeders, \$3 and up. Trios, \$7.50 and up. Pens, \$12.00 and up.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

HARTNEST FARM, Framingham, Mass.



EVANS VEGETABLE AND ROOT CUTTERS

Hens consume large quantities of grass and other green food when they can get it. They can't get it in the winter when every green thing is frozen up. Our Vegetable and Root Cutter supplies these deficiencies. It cuts all kinds of roots and vegetables—beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, potatoes, etc., into fine pieces like angle worms. All fowls, big and little, eat them easily and greedily and thrive upon them. They double the egg crop and make hens lay in the middle of winter when eggs are worth the most money. Feeding roots thus prepared saves 50% of the grain feed. They turn easy, cut fast and last indefinitely. One will pay for itself quickly in the increase of eggs it will produce. Made in four sizes. Price, \$1. and up. Leading poultrymen and editors endorse it. Circulars free.

EVANS MANUFACTURING CO. Dept. R, Ypsilanti, Mich

drink and then shut them up for another such period. I have a small coop made of lath in the corner of each pen, and raised from the floor three or four feet. If convenient, it is best to have the coop over the roost boards, and then the droppings will fall through on to the boards.—*F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass.*

To break up incubation, if seen to on its first symptoms, is easily done by removing to slat coop on the bare earth, fed lightly, and given plenty of cool water. But all incubating breeds will lay more eggs for the entire year, if allowed to hatch and rear a brood of chicks, especially if the fowls are to be kept over. Then in June or July, let them set 4 or 6 weeks on china eggs, if chicks are not desired, when they will moult quickly, and come to laying before winter, and be far more profitable for it.—*J. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.*

Take the hen, as soon as she shows the least symptoms of broodiness, and tie her with a soft cord about four feet long, to the side of the run. In this way she cannot wind herself up around a stake, and the male bird and hens can worry her and give her no chance to sit on the ground, as some hens will do. It is best to have her tied under some shade, if possible, for humanity sake, and keep her tied there by the leg until you are sure she has got enough of sitting. I find this the quickest and easiest way. The longest I have had to keep a hen tied that way was four days. Some will break up quicker than that, especially my Wyandottes. I find the Brahmas are the hardest to break up. Keep a dish of fresh water so she can reach it, and not so she can get the rope around it and upset it. Spade all of the grain in the ground so she must work for it.—*H. E. Carlton, Milford, N. H.*

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Thoughts that May be of Interest—Lice Powder—Treating Scaly Legs—How Mr. Pritchard Prevented and Cured Gapes.

Ventilation prevents sickness. Fresh air always—drafts never. Overfat is a diseased condition. Gather up and burn the feathers. Beware of impure or bad smelling soil. Mate for hardiness rather than feather. Don't be afraid of wearing out the broom. Overcrowding the pullets will weaken them. Are you sure the breeding stock have never been sick? Lack of good health is a severe blow to the best of breeds. We don't hear so much of contagious diseases as we used to. Anoint the tongue of the fowl with vaseline in cases of pip. The hens that moulted in July are apt to moult again next month. The foundation of hardiness is based upon rugged breeding stock. Standard requirements have ruined the health of many promising breeds. Canker is due to poor housing, uncleanness, musty or unwholesome food.

It is a pretty well settled fact that the condition of the soil produces gapes. A tablespoonful of kerosene in a quart of drinking water will cure sneezing in young stock.

Are you sure you have house room enough? Remember, overcrowding brings on disease.

Carbolate of Cosmoline is valuable in bathing combs and wattles of fowls suffering from chicken-pox.

Using harsh methods to break up broodiness in a hen, may result in an injury that can never be repaired.

Our forefathers cried "Cholera!" We are beginning to doubt if there is such a thing as "Cholera." The next generation will prove that there never was a genuine case of chicken cholera in this country.

Enos Grace, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, recommends the following lice powder: One quart of fine hard-coal ashes, sifted; two tablespoonfuls carbolic acid; one tablespoonful oil of sassafras; one gill lime; one gill Scotch snuff. Mix well and bottle up. When wanted fill a small baking powder can, first perforating the lid like a pepper box lid.

W. F. Stroud, New Jersey, writes A FEW HENS: "Some of my hens have lately shown some scale on their legs, so I gave them all a coal oil treatment the other evening, holding their legs in a can of oil about two minutes, as I have done once before about two years ago. Now they are without exception a sick looking lot of fowls. They do not care to eat, stand around dejected, look as though they would say, 'Life is not worth living.' Upon close examination I find their thighs and under part of body all inflamed and very sore. A milder treatment will suffice hereafter." The best way to treat scaly legs is to first wash with warm water and castile soap, and then anoint with an ointment made of equal parts melted lard and kerosene. Repeat daily until the legs are clean.

The King of Roasting Fowls!

Light Brahma Cockerels—for matings for strong frames, hardiness and all the points of value in table poultry. \$3 each for choice; \$2 for next best. Michael K. Boyer, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J.

L. A. Pritchard, Pennsylvania, writes: "As I wrote you sometime since that I was trying a new plan to keep rid of the gapes, I am glad to report my plan has been a success. I built a platform 12x12, around which I put a board a foot high, and to this one width of 3-foot (one inch) mesh wire, making the square 4 feet high. The roof has three rafters with four sheeting boards nailed on, and covered with red rope roofing. Inside I had a Champion brooder in which I kept the chicks for four or five weeks, then let them have full run of the building until they were feathered. I fed them the first twelve days on F. P. C. Chick Manna and Pratt's Poultry Food, but continued the Pratt Food with other soft feed for four weeks, five mornings of each week. So sure as I let a chick on the ground for a few days, gapes was the result. During the season I had only two to take the gapes, which I cured by taking a feather and saturating the throat three days in succession with kerosene oil. I now have seventy of the finest chicks that were ever raised in this section; heretofore 90 would die out of every hundred with the gapes. It seems the ground where I live is alive with gape worms."

FOR SALE. 300 B. & W. P. Rocks, \$1.50. S. & Wh. Wyandottes, \$2.00. Rose and S. C. Br. and White Leghorns and 50 B. Minorca hens and pullets in lots to suit. They are layers. Address, OAKLAND FARM, Kelsey, Ohio.

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.00 for 100 pounds. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

For Sale or Exchange. One Phila. Caponizing set. One 50-egg Incubator and one 40-chick Brooder. Write. J. D. STAPLES, Huntsville, Miss.

Orr's Clear Grit.

Standard for quality 100 lbs. 75 cents; 500 lbs. \$3.00. D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

AN UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

D. A. MOUNT,

PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.




POSITIVE MONEY MAKERS

THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for 6c. in stamps. Address the

Des Moines Incubator Co. Box Des Moines, Iowa, 423





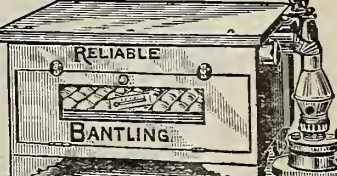
THE HATCHING HEN

HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way

RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS

They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 224 page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Poultry Farms. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Send for it now

Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.





HATCH CHICKENS

WITH THE MODEL

EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.

GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.



Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Brewers' Grains as an Egg Food—Some Valuable Pointers by Dr. Woods—Nutritive Value of Green Bone—Measuring Grain—Forcing Pullets for Early Fall Laying.

Feed for flavor.

Bad food will produce diseased meat.

The whiter the middlings the better.

Don't let the hens feed in the hog pen.

Course bran is preferable to the fine stuff often sold.

Even fowls having free range should be supplied with green cut bone twice a week.

Poultry Keeper advises feeding brewers' grains (dried) every other day for egg production.

Dr. Woods gives wheat, oats, barley, corn, buckwheat and rye, the order as per value, of our poultry grains.

Better have a few hogs to feed on the waste chicken feed, than a few hens on the waste hog feed.

The manure pile makes poor feeding. The only redeemable trait it has is that it compels the hens to exercise.

Dr. Woods believes that 25 per cent of the entire weekly ration in winter should be corn or corn products; in hot weather less.

The *Farm-Poultry* editors differ: Mr. Robinson believes in feeding the mash "piping hot;" Dr. Woods says "nearly cold or only warm."

Soak the grain in cold water 5 or 6 hours before feeding. It allays dust and is not apt to irritate the throats and crops of the fowls.

Prof. C. C. Watson says the nutritive ratio of the food for laying hens should be about 1:4; that is, one part protein to four carbohydrates.

It is better to buy the ground oats and the cornmeal separately, and mix it yourself. The combination usually sold is not to be relied upon.

Editor Robinson, in *Farm-Poultry*, says a pound of cornmeal will measure about 1 1-2 pints; middlings, 1 quart; ground oats, 2 1-2 pints; wheat bran, 3 pints; clover meal, 2 quarts.

"Shorts," according to Webster, is the "bran and coarse part of meal, in mixture." In some sections of this country bran is known as "shorts," and in other places middlings bears that term.

Jacobs says brewers' grains contain about 4 lbs. ash (lime, etc.), 5 lbs. fat, 25 lbs. protein (flesh and albumen formers), and about 50 lbs. starchy matter, in 100 lbs.—the balance being water.

A well-balanced hen-man, says Dr. Woods, in *Farm-Poultry*, will have clean, comfortable quarters; sound, wholesome food, fed in variety; active, healthy fowls, well supplied with pure water, grit, shells, litter, and dust bath—and no lice.

A preference for soft food and avoidance of whole grain, calls attention to the emptiness of the grit box, writes Dr. Woods, in *Farm-Poultry*. An empty grit box means indigestion, and a falling off in the number of eggs. A liberal supply of hard grit and oyster shells is a necessity.

Jacobs gives this formulae for feeding laying hens: Brewers' grains, 10 lbs.;

linseed meal, 1 lb.; cornmeal, 2 lbs.; bran, 1 lb.; animal meal, 2 lbs.; ground bone, 1 lb.; fed once a day—one pound to 10 fowls. In summer this quantity should be reduced to one pound for 30 fowls.

Dr. Woods, in *Farm-Poultry*, says: "Breeding stock are said to produce more fertile eggs and better chicks if fed no soft feed, all grain being fed whole. Fowls so fed are perhaps less subject to disease, are more vigorous, but do not produce as many eggs as if soft food were given."

D. A. Mount feeds his pullets a mash in the morning, composed of bran, rice meal and cornmeal, with a portion of animal food, wet with milk. He feeds no more than they will eat quickly, then gives them grain at noon and night, such as wheat, oats and corn, changing frequently.

The *Farmers' Voice* says green bones are full of the very kind of nutriment that laying hens need. They contain carbonate of lime, 6 to 7 per cent; phosphate of lime, 58 to 63 per cent; phosphate of magnesia, 1 to 2 per cent; fluoride of calcium, 2 per cent; animal matter, 25 to 30 per cent—the remainder of their weight being water.

For getting the most eggs during fall and winter from a lot of this year's pullets, J. E. Stevenson, in *Rural New-Yorker*, advises feeding green cut bone, or a good quality of ground meat, all they will eat quickly, once a day. When the weather is not too warm he uses green bones about half of the time—and ground meat when it is not convenient to get the bones fresh; they must be fresh, as the green they put on with age will make them rather unsatisfactory egg-producing material.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. Our strain of Buff Leghorns have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows. Prolific layers. \$2.00 per 13. C. W. FRANKLIN, Norwich, N. Y.

Fine Brahma Hens.

A Few Fine Yearling Light Brahma Hens for Sale at \$2.00 each. (Felch strain). Michael K. Boyer, Hammonton, Atlantic Co., N. J.

Prof. Wheeler, of the Geneva (N. Y.) Experimental Station, in a reply to a question sent out by the *Rural New-Yorker*, regarding forcing pullets to early fall laying, advises ground grain to constitute the largest part of the ration, which should consist principally of cornmeal and wheat bran, with some ground oats, wheat middlings and pea meal. Occasionally, if desired, feed some old process linseed meal and gluten meal. Feed animal meal mixed with the ground grain. For convenience, use a mixture of which one-third (more than one-quarter) is fresh animal meal. Let the whole or cracked grain constitute less than half the ration, and be principally wheat and cracked corn, with some barley and oats. If sweet skim-milk is available, less animal meal need be fed. If the birds are confined, feed liberally of green clover or some substitute in addition to the ration mentioned. Give plenty of fresh water and sharp grit.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS Exclusively. Stock and Eggs for sale at reasonable prices. HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.

No Artificial Moisture

used in the

Star Incubator

None needed, because our perfect ventilation preserves the natural moisture supplied from the egg.

Nature's Way—No Guess Work.

We guarantee satisfaction to every purchaser or return money without question. You should at least look into our claims for this machine. Our catalogue is free.

STAR INCUBATOR & BROODER CO.,
25 Church St., Bound Brook, N. J.

Raise Quails.

and make one to two thousand dollars a year. Introducer cleared four thousand dollars a year with only one man to help him occasionally. Send 25 cts. and read the history of the introducer. It's only a small book, but it will tell you all about quails and how to raise them for profit. Address, C. GROSS, Bebra, (Morgan County), Mo.

The Cheapest and Best

Four Poultry Papers and Two Books, for \$1.25.

FULL VALUE, \$3.00.

The best is always the cheapest in the end, even though the cost be more. But when a poultryman can get **four** of the best poultry papers for practical purposes, and **two** such books as offered below, for a trifle more than the cost of one of the papers, it is a chance no one should let go by.

On receipt of cash **\$1.25**, we will send to any single address, as follows:

FARM-POULTRY,	semi-monthly, one year,	price, - -	\$1.00.
POULTRY KEEPER,	in colors, monthly, one year,	price, - -	.50.
INTER-STATE POULTRYMAN,	monthly, one year,	price, - -	.50.
A FEW HENS,	monthly, one year,	price, - -	.25.
Book BROILERS FOR PROFIT,	by M. K. Boyer,	price, - -	.50.
Book A LIVING FROM POULTRY,	by M. K. Boyer,	price, - -	.25.
Total,		- - - - -	\$3.00.

The **four** papers one year and the **two** books, all post-paid, for **\$1.25**. Send all orders to us. The combination cannot be changed or filled as above, unless all ordered at one time.
A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

A Trying Experience—Trimming the Wick—Hatching in Eight Days!—Hired Help and Incubators—Selecting an Incubator—Shutting off Ventilation—F. A. P. Coburn's Home-Made Brooder.

Get the incubators ready.

Don't swim the eggs in moisture.

Don't waste time and money on pullets' eggs.

Now is a good time to buy both incubators and brooders.

Be sure that moisture is really needed before applying it.

A great many broiler raisers will start their machines the beginning of next month.

Don't delay in getting the incubator room or cellar, and the brooding house, in readiness.

A poor machine will often hatch good eggs, but a good machine can do nothing with poor eggs.

J. E. Stevenson, Columbus, N. J., writes A FEW HENS that he uses hot water pipe brooders, giving a *side heat*, which he likes very well, though he has not yet perfected it.

Place the burners in hot water, to which about a tablespoonful of washing soda has been added, and boil for several hours. This will thoroughly clean them of dirt and make them safer for another season.

J. F. Crangle, Fishers Island, N. Y., writes A FEW HENS that he puts his incubator chicks first in hot air brooders (nurseries). After two weeks old he places them under the pipe system (hot water). This gives them the best of success.

A correspondent in *Rural New-Yorker* says he trims his incubator lamp wicks by rubbing a ten-penny nail across the burner once a day. He gets the wick cut just right at first, and then rubs off only the crust, and it will be the same shape as before. It will burn down evenly each time.

W. D. Rudd, writes: "It is practically impossible to delegate the care of incubators to hired help; not that the machines require so much attention, or that particularly brilliancy of intellect is indispensable in an attendant, but we have never been very successful in trusting their care to hired help, and although employing from 5 to 8 men on the farm, some of our own family now always take entire charge of the machines."

C. W. B. Gerner, Allentown, Pa., told the editor of *Reliable Poultry Journal* that the past season he tried a new wrinkle in running his incubators. During the last two or three days of the hatch, when the ducklings are pipping the shells and coming out, he closes the ventilators. He besides uses practically no moisture. He claims by this method he has better hatches—a larger per cent of them hatch out, fewer die in the shells, and there is no drying up of the membrane surrounding the duckling.

"In selecting an incubator," says W. D. Rudd, in his poultry circular, "it is of vital importance that a first-class one be chosen; one that will not only

hatch well, but hatch strong, healthy, vigorous chickens, for a chicken not well hatched had better remain in the shell. To start with a poor incubator at the opening of a season, is like planting a field with worthless seed and waiting the entire summer for them to sprout. A complete flat failure is as certain in one case as the other."

The *Rural New-Yorker* tells of some delusive hen man who has been informing the guileless writers for the daily papers that he has invented an incubator that will hatch chicks out in eight days. Furthermore, his incubator is supplied with air cleansed and moistened, consequently the flesh of his chicks is not stringy, and doesn't taste of coal oil, which, as the newspaper writer wisely observes, is a common fault of incubator broilers. "Consider the wastefulness of allowing an ordinary incubator to idle around for three weeks, producing a lot of coal-oil-flavored broilers, when this new machine can make an eight-day record!"

C. E. Brown, Massachusetts, writes A FEW HENS: "We got a Black Minorca rooster last fall, thinking we would have stronger eggs. Our hens are Plymouth Rocks. I guess we hit the head of the nail, for we set a 50-egg Buckeye incubator with one-half of our eggs, and the other half were Buff Plymouth Rock eggs purchased of a poultryman. Only eight of the Buffs hatched, and we got nineteen from our own eggs. But that is not all of the story. The lamp got away, and the thermometer went up to 110 degrees. The next day it went out and the thermometer went down into the bulb, which was the result of having 'too many cooks'. I was sick at the time. The first trial of the machine we had trouble with the moisture, through misprinted directions. The 19th day the air space was about the size it should have been on the 7th, and growing worse. We were sure we would lose them all, so we experimented. We put a piece of stone lime in the incubator, and as a result got 16 healthy chicks. Every egg but one was fertile."



It Destroys Vermin on Animals.

Especially recommended to poultry keepers for destroying that pest of the poultry house, *Lice*. It also prevents the breeding of vermin where freely used. Ten lbs. \$1.00. E. WHITNEY & Co., Natick, Mass.

\$2.10 per Head Profit.

Our White Wyandotte record from January to July, for eggs alone. Young cockerels for sale at \$2.00 each. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammon, Atlantic Co., N. J.

F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass., writes A FEW HENS as follows: "The brooder I use is of my own make. It is hot air, measuring 3-feet square, and has a lamp chamber underneath. Over this lamp chamber is a hot-air chamber. The cold air comes in at the sides of the brooder, is heated and carried through a 6-inch dome into the brood chamber above. This dome has small holes perforated in the top, and also in the sides down to within 1-2 inches of the floor, so that the chicks get top and side heat, and only just enough bottom heat to keep the floor dry and moderately warm. I have this brooder made in such a way that it can be very quickly turned into either an indoor or an outdoor brooder. The hover is 24 inches square, and is adjustable to the size of the chicks. It has double fringe all around, and is so made that the fringe is always even with the floor when the hover is at any height. I have had very good success with this brooder, and consider it equal to any made."

POULTRY FARM FOR SALE. Five acres; good buildings, excellent water. Fifty miles from New York city. Address, CHAS. K. NELSON, Hammon, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Eggs and Fowls in Season.
WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

"Best Liver Pill Made."
Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes.

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

Geese for Profit.

Goose Culture in Kentucky—The Evil of Inbreeding—An Old Idea About Keeping Geese—Market for Geese Eggs—The Embden or Bremen Goose—Goose-Fattening Establishment.

The Jews buy only live geese. Like the duck the goose is a poor sitter. A goose is said to be the cleanest fowl alive.

A goose is particular about the condition of her food.

The Hong Kong goose is the most popular in Kentucky.

After Easter goose eggs run about double in price of hens' eggs.

Goose eggs are generally shipped to market from the west.

It requires four or five weeks' careful training to fatten geese.

The average weight of goose eggs is about 5 1-2 ounces each.

The goose generally becomes broody after laying a dozen eggs.

Cincinnati is one of the heaviest shipping points for goose eggs.

It is not considered profitable to keep geese after the eighth year.

Unlike hens and ducks, geese do not reach maturity until three years old.

Those wanting a large white breed of geese, will not go amiss on the Embden.

It is said that more geese are raised in Kentucky than in any two of the western states.

Goose eggs usually are in demand in market just before Easter, and last up to about last of May.

It is said that the flesh of the Embden goose does not partake of that oily taste noticeable in some fattened geese.

Geese have a great deal more sense than they are given credit for, and they learn to know their attendants and seem to appreciate the care and attention they receive.

Where ducks and geese are sent to markets requiring them drawn, they may be scalded; then wrap them in a cloth for two minutes, when the feathers and down will come off clean.

The Philadelphia Times tells of a goose fattening establishment kept by Sol Renaker, Cynthiana, Ky., where 20,000 geese are annually fattened for sale to the New York Hebrew people.

The Embden or Bremen geese, says the Poultry Monthly, derive their names from the towns of Embden and Bremen, in Hanover, adjoining Holland, a region including Olenburg and Saxouy, long noted for the quality of the geese, from which country they were imported some years ago, and which country the United States still draws on for stock.

Not many years ago the idea prevailed that geese could only be kept profitably on farms where there were running streams, says the Iowa Homestead, and that even then they could only be kept by certain people endowed with certain peculiarities, that the goose's foot was poison to everything with which it came in contact, that a goose would eat more than a mule, and that to even entertain an idea of keeping a goose on the farm was next to abandonment of the farm.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

"The Culture of the Quail, or How to Raise Quails for Profit," by C. Gross, Bebra, Mo., is an interesting book just received, and advertised for sometime in A FEW HENS.

Ambler Bros., Cor. Smith St. and P. & E. R. R., Poughkeepsie, N. Y., have issued a catalogue of poultry supplies that should be in the hands of all poultrymen. They quote bargains.

Agricultural Advertising, Chicago, Ills., issued its golden harvest number last month. The Frank B. White Company are hustlers from "way back," and are perfectly reliable.

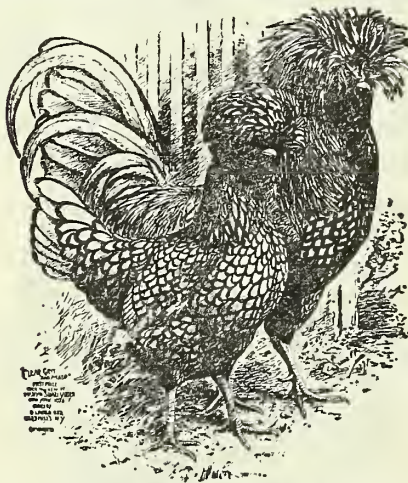
Chas. H. Canfield, manufacturer of all-wood shipping and exhibition coops, Bath, N. Y., has issued his fourth annual price-list, and those in the market for that line of goods should write him at once.

A. F. Williams, manufacturer of the Monitor incubator, closed a deal by which he will have a new factory and a new location. The former will be a 3 1-2 story stone building—and the latter will be Moodus, instead of Bristol, Conn. A FEW HENS wishes him unbounded success in his new home.



The illustration we present of a Rose Comb Brown Leghorn, represents the style of bird bred and sold by Kerlin & Son, Shenkel, Pa. We have never had a single complaint against this firm, and believe that orders intrusted in their care will be satisfactorily filled.

The 27th annual circular of Orrocco Poultry Farm, of W. H. Rudd & Son, (office, 40 North street, Boston, Mass.—farm, South Natick) to hand. All interested in dark brown egg laying Barred Plymouth Rocks should have this finely illustrated book, which will be sent for ten cents. It is replete with valuable matter.



The name of D. Lincoln Orr, (Orr's Mills, N. Y.) became famous through the introduction of grit. He practically placed the first article on the market, and "Clear Grit" has become a poultry household term. But more of this is told by Mr. Orr in his advertisement in this issue. Aside from grit, Mr. Orr is a prominent poultry breeder, and one of his best varieties are Polish, an illustration of which we hereby present. A postal will secure a copy of a circular fully describing all Mr. Orr has to sell. Walter P. Laird, Salem, Va., writes: "I have used during the last 9 years, 8 different makes of incubators and brooding systems, and for workmanship, simplicity and high percent-

age, as well as other good qualities, too numerous to mention, the good old Prairie State incubators and brooders cap the climax. If the clever fellow, A. F. Cooper, Esq., (of the Prairie State Company) can't fix you up, you had better go out of business.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the ad. of F. W. Mann Co., of Milford, Mass., which makes its first appearance with this issue for the season of 1898-9. These people are the manufacturers of the now world-famous Mann Green Bone Cutters, which since their introduction to the public have completely revolutionized the poultry industry. There is abundance of testimony to prove that the feeding of green bone cut by these machines, has doubled the production of eggs in hundreds of instances. These people wish us to state that they are better than ever prepared to handle the trade entrusted to them. See their ad. on another page.

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS exclusively. Our birds are large, have good shape, yellow legs, yellow skin and rich buff color. To make room we will sell two cocks (one yr. old) at \$5.00 each; hens, \$1.50 to \$2.00. Selected cockerels, \$2.00 to \$3.00, and a few pullets. Write us and we will try to please you. **FORD BROS.,** Oak Hill, N. Y.

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once daily. If your hens are shedding their feathers and not laying, they are out of condition. All the poultry authorities say, "when hens are in condition they will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Then help them over molting time, or your egg profit this winter will be much lessened.

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